REMARKS

Claim 15 has now been objected to due to informalities. The claim has been amended to obviate the Examiner's objection.

Claims 1-3, 6-7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) Figs. 1-2 in view of Pace et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,271,629. Claims 8-10 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) Figs. 1-2, in view of Pace et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,271,629, in further view of Elliott, U.S. Patent No. 4,414,491.

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

The claims as now amended are directed to a device for switching on and powering discharge lamps. The device is comprised of at least a current limiting device, at least a square wave generator, at least an igniter, at least two high tension connection cables, at least a lamp holder with at least a discharge lamp coupled. The igniter comprising at least a high tension transformer and at least an overlapping transformer, the device being characterised in that the at least an igniter is divided into a first stage of the igniter, or pulse generator transformer, and the high tension transformer. The first igniter stage, or pulse generator transformer, and the high tension transformer are assembled along with the above mentioned components. The device includes a lamp holder having a bottom and such that said first igniter stage including the pulse generator and overlapping transformers, is integral with the bottom of the lamp holder. The current limiting device module is connected by two reduced section cables to the first stage of the igniter, or pulse generator transformer. The current limiting device module and at least a first stage of the igniter, or pulse generator transformer, are subjected to movement and/or

traction.

After speaking with the Examiner, and discussing the differences between the Applicants invention and the prior art, the Examiner agreed that there are differences between the cited references and the Applicants' invention. Specifically, that the pulse generator 112 and the two transformers 114 and 115 are fixed underneath the lamp holder and that this combination is not shown in the cited references. Additionally, the use of the toroidal core transformers are also not shown in combination with the Applicants' invention wherein the pulse generator including the first stage of the igniter or pulse transformer is located on the bottom of the lamp holder. Furthermore, the combination of the toroidal core transformers in discharge lamps has also not been disclosed. The combination of these components eliminates the noise determined by the passage of the strong square wave current due to the geometry of the employed components as to the squeezing of the shapes. There is also the possibility of using standard cables, suitably insulated, to realize the windings. These advantages have not been shown by the combination of references and

In view of the foregoing it is believed that the amended claims and the claims dependent therefrom are in proper form. The teachings of Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) Fig. 2 in view of Pace et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,271,629, and in further view of Elliott, U.S. Patent No. 4,414,491 do not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Thus, claims 1-3, 6-7, 9-10 and 16 and are considered to be patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record and should be allowed.

The application is now considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any further extension and/or fee that is required to Deposit Order Account 19-0079.

Respectfully submitted,

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